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Rapporteur: Mr. Ayman M. **Elgammal** (Egypt)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 16, Economic and social development in Africa

1. At its 17th and 18th meetings, on 21 and 22 June 2001, the Committee considered section 16, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Satisfaction was expressed with the improvement in the presentation of the fascicle, which met the same standards as other budget sections. The programme narrative was clear and in line with the text of programme 14 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. The improvement in the presentation of the fascicle as well as in the narrative was noted.

4 The view was expressed that the narrative of section 16 as well as expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement differed in part from the text of programme 14 of the medium-term plan. While the emphasis in the medium-term

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plan was placed on the reduction of poverty, the overall objective in the fascicle was to help African countries to deepen economic and social reforms and accelerate and sustain development. It was also noted that the expected accomplishment on increased mobilization of financial resources for the development of Africa under subprogramme 2 of programme 14 of the medium-term plan was missing from the fascicle. The view was expressed that the long-term objective of reducing poverty by half by 2015 should be reflected in the fascicle. It was also considered that debt reduction should have received more emphasis in the programme of work of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA).

5. The view was expressed that the narrative of the section should have included references to the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries and the United Nations Special System-wide Initiative on Africa, and that more emphasis should have been placed on operational activities in order to provide advice to Member States to assist them in their development efforts.

6. The view was expressed that the real growth of 1.6 per cent was very small and that the Commission should be provided with more resources to match the ambitions indicated in the programme.

7. It was considered that, in future, it would be necessary to provide greater specificity in the wording of expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, particularly with respect to the impact and effectiveness of programme outputs. It was recalled that, in 1996, ECA had carried out an exercise of reprioritization of its programme of activity through 2001 and that, subsequently, the Commission had discontinued a number of outputs that had not had the desired impact. In that connection, continuous review of outputs and reallocation of resources to priority issues was encouraged.

8. Regret was expressed at the continuing high vacancy rate pertaining at ECA which would, should it continue unchecked, seriously hamper accomplishments and delay unnecessarily Africa's economic and social recovery.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee recommended that publications and meetings should be more action-oriented and focus on issues that have a concrete impact on the development of African countries.

10. The Committee also recommended that immediate steps should be taken to decrease substantially the persistently high vacancy rate at ECA, which negatively affects programme delivery.

11. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 16, Economic and social development in Africa, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, subject to the following modifications:

Paragraph 16 A.1

The last sentence of the paragraph should read:

"The main objective of development in Africa is the reduction of poverty, an objective that was reaffirmed in Copenhagen in 1995 at the World Summit for Social Development, which set a target of reducing poverty by half by 2015."

Table 16 A.9

Add the following under expected accomplishments:

"Increased mobilization of financial resources for the development of Africa."

Add the following two indicators of achievement:

"(iii) A substantial increase in financial flows to the countries of the region;

(iv) The number of countries that have adopted investment and trade liberalization policies, including the removal of physical and non-physical barriers."

Table 16 A.13

At the beginning of indicator of achievement (b), add the words "An increase in".

Table 16 A.15

Under expected accomplishments, add a new expected accomplishment (d), reading:

"Increased Internet connectivity of African countries."

At the end of indicator of achievement (b) add the words "Number of countries that, with the support of ECA, have improved their statistical systems, leading to the collection and dissemination of timely and reliable data."

Add a new indicator of achievement (d), reading:

"An increase in the number of African Internet hosts and countries with direct connections."

Table 16 A.17

Add the following two new expected accomplishments:

"(c) Increased, effective and harmonized utilization of transboundary water resources;

"(d) Substantial implementation of the Framework of Action adopted by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications".

Add the following new indicator of achievement:

"(c) An increase in positive results of the implementation of the Framework of Action for transport and communications".

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 17. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific

1. At its 18th meeting on 22 June 2001, the Committee considered section 17, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the activities undertaken by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. It was considered that the resources proposed for the section were not commensurate with the needs of the Commission which served a region comprising two thirds of the world population, and included the highest number of people living in absolute poverty.

4. The view was expressed that the expected accomplishments should be refined and that a number of indicators of achievements should be formulated more

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precisely, in order for them to be more quantifiable. It was also felt that the resources devoted to the area of administration needed to be reduced further and redeployed to the programme of work.

5. Appreciation was expressed for the importance assigned to activities related to women and to gender mainstreaming, for the efforts of the secretariat of the Commission to streamline its staffing arrangements and for the decision of the Commission to reduce its publication programme by 22 per cent.

Conclusion and recommendation

6. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 17, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 18. Economic development in Europe

1. At its 19th meeting, on 22 June 2001, the Committee considered section 18, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme of work proposed in this section. It was considered that the programme of work was in line with the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1). Appreciation was expressed for the reforms carried out by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in recent years and for the reduction in the number of publications.

4. The work carried out by the Commission in favour of the countries with economies in transition was noted with appreciation. In this context, it was emphasized that some of the main elements of the strategy of ECE should be the further strengthening of the national capacity of the countries with economies in

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transition and outreach towards the business and non-governmental organizations communities in these countries.

Conclusion and recommendation

5. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 18, Economic development in Europe, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 19. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean

1. At its 19th meeting on 22 June 2001, the Committee considered section 19, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the work and activities of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). It was observed that the programme of work was in line with the priorities and needs of the region, such as the reduction of poverty and accelerated economic development.

4. The view was expressed that, while most indicators of achievements were consistent with those approved for programme 17 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, some indicators required a closer alignment with those in the plan. It was considered that in time the indicators of achievement cited under the

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programme would be improved. In that connection it was stated that performance indicator (d) in table 19.19, "overall attendance goal of at least 40 per cent of women", was very good since it provided a well-defined target which could be measured. Regarding performance indicator (a) in table 19.7, the view was expressed that the scope of that indicator should be expanded and not constrained only to negotiations on a Free Trade Area of the Americas, since ECLAC activities should benefit all countries of the region. Concern was expressed about the implications in the wording of some of the external factors; it was felt that the expected accomplishments would be solely dependent on the actions of Member States of the region. In that regard it was considered that some of the external factors required improvement.

5. It was stated that ECLAC should be commended for the level of detail and apparent transparency of the outputs enumerated in the narrative of the section. Appreciation was expressed for the institutional reforms carried out by ECLAC.

6. It was considered that ECLAC should increase efforts to ensure that consultants and experts are recruited from a greater number of countries of the region.

7. The view was expressed that future budget resources should provide for the strengthening of subprogrammes 4 and 7. It was further indicated that since the 1990s, one of the goals of ECLAC had been to strengthen the areas of work covered by subprogramme 3, Macroeconomic policies and growth, and subprogramme 7, Planning of public administration. It was therefore considered that the technical expertise required under those subprogrammes should be reinforced. The achievements under subprogramme 10, Statistics and economic projections, an area in which ECLAC had developed significant comparative advantage, were highlighted.

8. Concern was expressed with regard to the negative impact that the lower level of extrabudgetary resources projected for the biennium 2002-2003 would have on the programme of work.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 19, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, subject to the following modifications:

Table 19.7

In performance indicator (a), delete the phrase "in particular with respect to the ongoing negotiations on a Free Trade Area of the Americas".

Table 19.19

In expected accomplishment (b), delete the phrase "democratic governance".

Table 19.21

Expected accomplishment (b) should read:

"Increased technical capacity to incorporate an environmental dimension into the design of economic policies and the innovative use of economic instruments in environmental management, including a better understanding of the uneven effects of such policies on men and women."

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 20. Economic and social development in Western Asia

1. At its 22nd meeting, on 26 June 2001, the Committee considered section 20, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme of work proposed in this section. It was considered that the programme narrative was clear and in line with the text of programme 18 of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 (A/55/6/Rev.1). It was considered that while the objectives of the five subprogrammes in the budget fascicle corresponded to the objectives of the same subprogrammes in the medium-term plan, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement were at variance between the two documents. Satisfaction was expressed with the inclusion of gender-related expected accomplishments in four of five subprogrammes of section 20.

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4. Concern was expressed regarding the limited resources available to this programme. The view was also expressed that given the limited resources available to the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Commission should streamline its programme of activities and focus on the areas where ESCWA had a real comparative advantage.

5. Satisfaction was expressed with the efforts made by ESCWA to reduce the vacancy rate. Concern was expressed about the low level of extrabudgetary resources projected to be available for 2002-2003.

6. The view was expressed that more ESCWA publications should be issued in Arabic so as to take into account the requirements of the end-users in the region.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 20, Economic and social development in Western Asia, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

8. The Committee recommended that the Secretary-General submit to the General Assembly, at its fifty-sixth session, a report on the most appropriate ways to ensure that ESCWA documents and publications were issued in Arabic, which is most relevant to the requirements of the member States of the region, as well as in other working languages of ESCWA to fulfil the requirements of readers outside the region, as appropriate.

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 21, Regular programme of technical cooperation

1. At its 26th meeting, on 28 June 2001, the Committee considered section 21, Regular programme of technical cooperation, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the proposals under this section. It was emphasized that this section played an important role in supporting national development efforts of developing countries.

4. The view was expressed that this section should have also been presented in the results-based budgeting format and contained expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement. It was explained that application of results-based budgeting techniques was difficult as the exact nature and extent of activities to be financed by the section were not known in advance.

5. It was noted that this budget section has been traditionally kept at maintenance level, subject only to recosting, and that, in accordance with General Assembly

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resolution 2514 (XXIV) of 21 November 1969, budget estimates have been in the nature of targets of programme delivery in each of the sectors or major fields of activity for which resources have been previously appropriated by the General Assembly. A view was expressed that this budget section should not be recosted as its activities related to specific requests for services during a biennium.

6. Questions were asked about the number of actual requests for advisory services made by Governments for previous periods and the number projected for 2002-2003. Information was also sought concerning the results of evaluation of advisory projects from previous budget periods.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 21, Regular programme of technical cooperation, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

8. The Committee also recommended that the activities related to section 21, Regular programme of technical cooperation be presented in terms of objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, where possible.

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 22, Human rights

1. At its 24th and 25th meetings, on 27 June 2001, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 22, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights introduced the section and responded to questions raised during the Committee's consideration of the section.

Discussion

2. Strong support was expressed for the High Commissioner and for the work carried out by her Office. Appreciation was expressed for the support provided for the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa. It was requested that enough resources be allocated in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 to the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa.

3. Views were expressed that, when viewed in the context of the overall budget, the proposed increase in resources for the section reflected the importance placed on it. A view was expressed that the proposed resources were not sufficient to fulfil all its mandates.

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4. It was noted that there had been a steady increase in the resources for human rights, while the priority of economic development was not treated equally and development-related activities had been subject to streamlining and rationalization. It was also noted that more mechanisms created difficulties both through duplication and resource growth; there, the High Commissioner should take efficiency measures through streamlining and integrating various human rights machineries and publications.

5. Concerns were expressed about the increasing dependence on extrabudgetary contributions, which could jeopardize the principle of universality. Views were expressed that, since all basic mandates of the Centre and all human rights activities were core activities of the United Nations, the programme should be funded entirely by regular budget resources. A view was expressed that the information on extrabudgetary resources lacked transparency and should include pledges.

6. It was noted that important principles embodied in paragraphs 19.3 (d) and (e) of programme 19 of the medium-term plan had not been reflected in the overview of the programme budget fascicle. It was also noted that expected accomplishments and measurements of achievement in subprogramme 2 deviated from the medium-term plan and that, in subprogramme 3, they were completely different from those in the medium-term plan. Concern was expressed that the programme budget fascicle, which should be in accordance with the medium-term plan, had been prepared prior to the finalization and adoption of the medium-term plan by the General Assembly and the Secretariat had not corrected the fascicle accordingly.

7. Views were expressed that the expected accomplishments and measurements of achievement were not in line with the medium-term plan. Other views were expressed that the expected accomplishments and measurements of achievement were in line with the medium-term plan, were precise, and that section 22 was one of the fascicles which were specific whereas others were vague.

8. The absence of a reference to the establishment of common data banks of information, research and analysis to assist legislative bodies, monitoring committees and special procedures, as stated in Action 16 (b) of the report of the Secretary-General on renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform (A/51/950), was noted with concern.

9. A view was expressed that the Centre for Human Rights could support the creation of a body to assist young democracies in the area of human rights. Support was expressed for the integration of human rights into all the work of the United Nations.

10. A view was expressed that there was a disproportionate emphasis on the right to development, giving the impression that it was separate from other human rights. Support was expressed for the special attention given to the right to development.

11. The necessity of financing within the section the working group to prepare a Convention on Enforced Disappearances and the Special Rapporteur on indigenous human rights was stressed.

12. The following amendments were proposed to section 22, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the period 2002-2003:

Overview

Add paragraphs 19.3 (d) and (e) of the medium-term plan;

Paragraph 22.1

(i) Add "international" before "problems" in line 3;

(ii) Replace "assisting in the realization of all" with "in promoting and encouraging respect for" in line 4;

(iii) Replace "supported" with "endorsed" in line 8;

Paragraph 22.2

(i) Delete the phrase "to anticipate serious violations and react to them" in the second sentence in line 7;

(ii) Delete in line 9 the words "to combat discrimination, to promote better life chances for human beings through the implementation of human rights, including civil, political, social and cultural rights and the right to development";

Paragraph 22.3

Delete the whole paragraph;

Paragraph 22.3, 22.5 to 22.8

(i) Option 1. Replace with "the programme of work aims at the following: (a) a significant enhancement and ..., (b) Major strengthening ..., (c) The adoption and implementation..., (d) ... (e), (f), (g), (h), (i), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (o), (p)";

(ii) Option 2. Divide the 16 items listed in the medium-term plan into the following seven groups:

(i) international cooperation, technical cooperation and provision of assistance ((a), (d), (k), (l) of 19.3 of the medium-term plan);

(ii) right to development and economic, social and cultural rights ((c) and (f));

(iii) the Office of the High Commissioner, organization and activities of the United Nations Secretariat ((b), (e), (i), (j));

(iv) treaty bodies and special procedures ((g) and (h));

(v) education and public information, provision of research and analysis to States ((o) and (p));

(vi) fight with racism and protection of minorities ((n));

(vii) integration of women and the girl child ((m));

Paragraph 22.4

(i) Delete the first sentence;

(ii) Delete the first two sentences;

(iii) Delete the last sentence;

Paragraph 22.5

Delete the phrase "such as minorities, indigenous populations, migrant workers, the disabled and others" in the second sentence after the phrase "protect vulnerable groups";

Paragraph 22.5, 22.6, 22.7 and 22.8

Replace text of these paragraphs with "The programme of work aims at: and insert subparagraphs (a), (b), (c), ... (p)" of paragraph 19.3 of the medium-term plan;

Paragraph 22.8

Delete the phrase "including the development of guidelines on gender issues" in the first sentence, and delete the two sentences that follow;

Paragraph 22.10

Delete the whole paragraph;

Paragraph 22.26

Change "advisory" to "subsidiary" in the third sentence;

Paragraph 22.27

(i) Insert "once the Permanent Forum has been established and held its first annual session" between the words "that" and "it" in the first line;

(ii) Delete entire paragraph;

Paragraph 22.31

(i) Delete in the fifth line after the word "treaties" the words starting with "addresses" up to "recommendations" in the seventh line;

(ii) Delete after the word "developments" in the eighth line the words "formulates policy and develops operational programmes in the area of human rights";

(iii) Delete in the twelfth line the words "for the purpose of protecting and promoting human rights";

Table 22.7

(i) Replace the part on measurements of achievement with (a) to (f) of paragraph 19.8 of the medium-term plan;

(ii) Delete in line 2 of measurements of achievement (a) (ii) the words "related to the right to development";

(iii) Replace "contribute to the promotion and protection of the right to development" with "contribute to the fulfilment of the objectives of the subprogramme" under measurement of achievement (a) (iii), line 7;

(iv) Replace text of measurement of achievement (c) with:

"(c) (i) The extent to which the mandate given to the Secretariat contained in resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly,

the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights had been fulfilled;

(ii) The holding of seminars and workshops organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, or in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, and the extent to which they contributed to the fulfilment of the objectives of the subprogramme;

(iii) An increased number of visitors to the web site of the Office of the High Commissioner;

(iv) The number of new publications by the Office of the High Commissioner as well as their distribution and the assessment by users of their quality and usefulness";

(v) Replace measurement of achievement (d) (iii) with "The holding of seminars and workshops on the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, or in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner";

(vi) Add a new measurement of achievement (d) (iv): "An increase in the number of visitors to the web site of the Office of the High Commissioner on the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance";

(vii) Add a new measurement of achievement (d) (v): "The number of new publications of the Office of the High Commissioner on the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as well as their distribution and the assessment by users of their quality and usefulness";

(viii) Delete under measurement of achievement (e) (iii) line 4: "in order to advance the full realization of the right to development, in accordance with the Declaration on the Right to Development";

(ix) Add a new measurement of achievement (e) (iv): "The holding of seminars and workshops on the rights of women, children, persons belonging to minorities, migrant workers, indigenous people and persons with disabilities, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, or in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner";

(x) Add a new measurement of achievement (e) (v): "An increased number of visitors to the web site of the Office of the High Commissioner on the rights of women, children, persons belonging to minorities, migrant workers, indigenous people and persons with disabilities";

(xi) Add a new measurement of achievement (e) (vi): "The number of new publications of the Office of the High Commissioner on the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance as well as their distribution and the assessment by users of their quality and usefulness";

(xii) Replace under Objective 2 in line 6 the word "recognition" with "promotion";

(xiii) (i) At the end of measurement of achievement (a) (i) add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (a))";

(ii) In measurement of achievement (a) (ii) delete the words "related to the right to development". At the end of the sentence add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e))";

(iii) In measurement of achievement (a) (iii) replace the words "the promotion and protection of the right to development" with the words "the fulfilment of the objectives of the subprogramme". At the end of the sentence add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e))";

(iv) At the end of measurement of achievement (a) (iv) add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (a))";

(v) Renumber measurement of achievement (a) (i) through (a) (iv) as (i) through (iv);

(xiv) (i) Add a new measurement of achievement (b) (ii): "the extent to which coordination has been strengthened between the departments and offices of the United Nations, the specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, providing compiled examples of concrete steps in that regard". At the end of the sentence add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (b))";

(ii) Add a new measurement of achievement (b) (iii): "the extent to which the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner contributed to strengthening the coordination for human rights across the United Nations system". At the end of the sentence add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (b))";

(iii) Renumber measurement of achievement (b) (i) through (b) (iii) as (v) through (vii);

(xv) (i) In measurement of achievement (c) replace the words "the right to development, in accordance with the Declaration on the Right to Development" with the words "all human rights";

(ii) Add a new measurement of achievement (c) (ii): "an increased number of visitors to the web site of the Office of the High Commissioner". At the end of the sentence add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (c) and (e))";

(iii) Add a new measurement of achievement (c) (iii): "the number of new publications of the Office of the High Commissioner as well as their distribution, and the assessment by users of their quality and usefulness".

At the end of the sentence add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (c) and (e))";

(iv) Add a new measurement of achievement (c) (iv): "the extent to which the protection and promotion of all human rights have been included in the work programmes of the departments and offices of the United Nations, specialized agencies and other intergovernmental organizations". At the end of the sentence add the words "(relevant to all expected accomplishment)";

(v) Renumber measurement of achievement (c) (i) through (c) (iv) as (viii) through (xi).

(xvi) (i) At the end of measurement of achievement (d) (i) add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (d))";

(ii) At the end of measurement of achievement (d) (ii) add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (d))";

(iii) At the end of measurement of achievement (d) (iii) add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (d))";

(iv) Renumber measurement of achievement (d) (i) through (d) (iii) as (xii) through (xiv);

(xvii) (i) In measurement of achievement (e) (iii) replace the words "the full realization of the right to development, in accordance with the Declaration on the Right to Development, with respect to" with the words "the fulfilment of";

(ii) Add a new measurement of achievement (e) (iv): "The holding of seminars and workshops organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, or in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner, and the extent to which they contributed to the fulfilment of the rights of women, children, people belonging to minorities, migrant workers, indigenous peoples and people with disabilities";

(iii) At the end of each measurement of achievement (e) (i) through (e) (iv) add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (e))";

(iv) Renumber measurement of achievement (e) (i) through (e) (iv) as (xv) through (xviii);

Paragraph 22.35

(i) Delete subparagraph (a);

(ii) In subparagraph (b) replace "integrating human rights into their programmes and activities" with "the field of human rights";

Paragraph 22.36 (a) (iii) (a)

Add "the working group on a draft United Nations Convention on Enforced Disappearances";

Paragraph 22.36 (a) (iii) (b)

(i) Add "the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of indigenous peoples";

(ii) Add "Special Rapporteur on migrants, Special Rapporteur on all contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance";

Table 22.9

(i) Replace expected accomplishments and measurements of achievement with those under subprogramme 2 of programme 19 of the medium-term plan;

(ii) Replace the text of expected accomplishments and measurements of achievement respectively with (a), and (b) of paragraph 19.10 and (a) to (d) of paragraph 19.12 of the medium-term plan;

(iii) Delete (c), (d), (e), (f), (g) under expected accomplishments;

(iv) Replace measurement of achievement (a) (i) with "The quality and timeliness of services provided by the Office of the High Commissioner";

(v) Delete measurements of achievement (a) (iii) and (iv);

(vi) Delete measurements of achievement (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g);

(vii) Add a new measurement of achievement (a) (iii): "The number of reports prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, and the extent to which they were presented in a timely manner, in compliance with the six-week rule for the issuance of documentation, for consideration by organs dealing with human rights";

(viii) Add a new measurement of achievement (b) (ii): "The number of reports prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, and the extent to which they were presented in a timely manner, in compliance with the six-week rule for the issuance of documentation, for consideration by organs dealing with human rights";

(ix) (i) In expected accomplishment (a) after the words "treaty bodies," insert the words "inter alia,";

(ii) At the end of measurement of achievement (a) (i) add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (a))";

(iii) Add a new measurement of achievement (a) (ii): "quality and timeliness of services provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights". At the end of measurement of achievement (a) (ii) add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (a) and (b))";

(iv) At the end of measurement of achievement (a) (iii) add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (a))";

(v) At the end of measurement of achievement (a) (iv) add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (a))";

(vi) At the end of measurement of achievement (a) (v) add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (a))";

(vii) Renumber measurement of achievement (a) (i) through (a) (v) as (i) through (v);

(x) (i) In expected accomplishment (b), after the words "treaty bodies," insert the words "inter alia,";

(ii) At the end of measurement of achievement (b) add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishment (a))";

(iii) Renumber measurement of achievement (b) as (vi);

(iv) Renumber measurement of achievement (c) as (vii);

(v) At the end of measurement of achievement (d) add the words "(relevant to expected accomplishments (d) and (c))";

(vi) Renumber measurement of achievement (d) as (viii);

(vii) Renumber measurement of achievement (e) as (ix);

(viii) Renumber measurement of achievement (f) as (x);

(ix) Renumber measurement of achievement (g) (i) as (xi);

(x) Renumber measurement of achievement (g) (ii) as (xii);

Paragraph 22.39

(i) Delete external factors (a) and (c);

(ii) Delete external factor (a);

Paragraph 22.40 (c)

Delete "contribution to and participation in the development of guidelines of integrating human rights into the strategies and programmes of agencies and programmes of the United Nations system";

Table 22.11

(i) Replace expected accomplishments and measurements of achievement with those under subprogramme 3 of programme 19 of the medium-term plan;

(ii) Replace the parts of expected accomplishments and measurements of achievement respectively with (a) to (c) of paragraph 19.16 and (a) to (c) of paragraph 19.17 of the medium-term plan;

(iii) Replace in objective 1 expected accomplishments (a), (b) and (c) with:

"(a) Provision of advisory services and technical and financial assistance, at the request of the State concerned and, where appropriate, the regional human rights organizations, with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights;

(b) Enhanced awareness, knowledge and understanding of all human rights, including the right to development";

(iv) Add a new expected accomplishment under Objective 1: "Provision of advisory services and technical and financial assistance, at the request of the State concerned and, where appropriate, the regional human rights organizations, with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights, in particular in the new or re-established democracies";

(v) (i) Add a new expected accomplishment (d) as follows: "Provision of advisory services and technical and financial assistance, at the request of the State concerned and, where appropriate, the regional human rights organizations, with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights";

(ii) Add a new measurement of achievement (d) (i): "The number of requests from Member States and, where appropriate, from the regional human rights organizations, received and fulfilled by the Office of the High Commissioner for the provision of advisory services and technical and financial assistance, with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights";

(iii) Add a new measurement of achievement (d) (ii): "The timeliness, significance and relevance of the advisory services and technical cooperation";

(iv) Renumber measurement of achievement (d) (i) through (ii) as (ix) through (x);

(vi) Replace in objective 1 measurement of achievement (a) (i) and (ii) with:

"(a) (i) The number of seminars, workshops and training courses held or supported by the Office of the High Commissioner; and the number of persons trained, participants in seminars and workshops and fellowships granted as well as data on their geographic distribution and the extent to which they contributed to the fulfilment of the objectives of the subprogramme;

(ii) The number of requests from Member States and, where appropriate, from the regional human rights organizations, received and fulfilled by the Office of the High Commissioner for the provision of advisory services and technical and financial assistance, with a view to supporting actions and programmes in the field of human rights;

(iii) The timeliness, significance and relevance of the advisory services and technical cooperation";

(vii) Replace measurements of achievement (b) (i), (ii) and (iii) under objective 1 with: "(b) The number of actions and programmes that have been taken or formulated to further enhance the promotion and protection of human rights at the national, regional or international level";

(viii) Replace measurement of achievement (c) (i), (ii) and (iii) under objective 1 with: "(c) The number of seminars, workshops and training courses held or supported by the Office of the High Commissioner; and the number of persons trained, participants in seminars and workshops and fellowships granted as well as data on their geographical distribution and the extent to which they contributed to the fulfilment of the objectives of the subprogramme";

(ix) Replace the expected accomplishment of objective 2, "Prompt and effective action by the human rights special mechanisms of the policy-making bodies and by the human rights field presences in response to immediate threats of human rights violations or human rights violations," with "Fulfilment of the mandates given to the Office of the High Commissioner in resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights to support human rights monitoring mechanisms, such as special rapporteurs and representatives and expert and working groups mandated by policy-making bodies";

(x) Replace measurements of achievement (i) and (ii) under objective 2 with: "The number of actions and measures taken by human rights monitoring mechanisms, such as special rapporteurs and representatives and expert and working groups mandated by policy-making bodies";

(xi) (i) Add a new expected accomplishment (b): "Fulfilment of the mandates given to the Office of the High Commissioner in resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights to support human rights monitoring mechanisms, such as special rapporteurs and representatives and expert and working groups mandated by policy-making bodies";

(ii) Add a new measurement of achievement (iii): "The satisfaction of special rapporteurs and representatives and experts and working groups mandated by policy-making bodies with the support and information provided by the Office of the High Commissioner";

(xii) Add under objective 3 "with respect to field activities," before "to ensure the efficiency of field missions and presences";

(xiii) Replace the text of expected accomplishment under objective 3 with "Improved efficiency of field missions and presences through the maintenance of contacts with Governments, appropriate sectors of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and others";

(xiv) Replace measurements of achievement (i) and (ii) under objective 3 with "The number of training programmes and materials for human rights field staff developed as well as training in human rights for the appropriate components of other United Nations field operations conducted for ensuring the efficiency of field missions and presences";

(xv) (i) Renumber measurement of achievement (a) (i) and (a) (ii) as (i) through (ii);

(ii) Renumber measurement of achievement (b) (i) through (b) (iii) as (iii) through (v);

(iii) Renumber measurement of achievement (c) (i) through (c) (iii) as (vi) through (viii);

(xvi) (i) Add a new expected accomplishment (e): "Enhanced awareness, knowledge and understanding of all human rights, including the right to development";

(ii) Add a new measurement of achievement (e): "The number of seminars, workshops and training courses held or supported by the Office

of the High Commissioner; and the number of persons trained, participants in seminars and workshops and fellowships granted as well as data on their geographical distribution and the extent to which they contributed to the fulfilment of the objectives of the subprogramme";

Paragraph 22.43

(i) Delete external factor (a);

(ii) Delete text of external factor (b) and replace with: "The number of grants provided to the relevant Funds in the field of human rights which can be utilized for advisory services and technical and financial assistance;

Paragraph 22.44 (c) (ii)

(i) Add "relevant" before "peacekeeping operations" in line 3;

(ii) Add "in accordance with the Security Council's resolutions and decisions" after "peacekeeping operations" in line 3.

13. The Committee noted the fact that the resources projected from the extrabudgetary sources totalled 150 per cent of the resources from the regular budget and felt that that was an area of concern, particularly given the importance of the section and the possibility of "agendas" being "donor-driven" in many cases.

14. The Committee recommended the deletion of the narrative in paragraphs 22.26 and 22.27.

15. The Committee recommended that, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, resources be allocated to the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa in accordance with the recommendations contained in paragraph 70 (a), part II, of the Committee's report on its fortieth session, adopted by the General Assembly.

16. All the objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement in section 22 should be replaced with those of the medium-term plan.

Conclusions and recommendations

17. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly carefully review section 22, Human rights, of the proposed programme budget for the period 2002-2003.

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(*Item 4 (a)*)

Section 23. Protection of and assistance to refugees

1. At its 27th and 28th meetings, on 28 June 2001, the Committee considered section 23, Protection of and assistance to refugees, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the activities undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), in particular in relieving the impact of refugee influxes on host developing countries.

4. Satisfaction was expressed with efforts to highlight the particular needs of women and children and to enhance the emergency response capacity of UNHCR, as reflected in the programme of work. It was felt that greater attention should be given to legal and physical protection and that an increase in the number of protection officers was necessary. Emphasis was given to the need for permanent solutions to the problems of refugees by strengthening and intensifying measures for repatriation

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and resettlement. The view was also expressed that, while recognizing the importance of repatriation and resettlement, mention should also be given to other durable solutions, including local integration.

5. With regard to operational cooperation, the view was expressed that memoranda of understanding between UNHCR and other United Nations organizations should be subject to intergovernmental review in order to ensure the credibility of such standby arrangements.

6. The view was expressed that some of the external factors listed in the budget document were within the responsibility of UNHCR management and were therefore largely internal rather than external in nature. In particular, it was pointed out that external factor 23.11 (a), on the training of UNHCR staff, should not be considered as an external factor. With regard to external factor 23.14 (c), the view was also expressed that the level of extrabudgetary funding available to UNHCR was not an external factor of the programme.

7. Appreciation was expressed for the High Commissioner's initiative in distinguishing between core and non-core activities of the Office; it was regretted however, that the initiative had resulted from a shortfall in resources.

8. Emphasis was placed on the need to have contingency plans, worked out in consultation with the Government concerned, to address internal displacement.

9. Concern was expressed about the proposed closure of some UNHCR offices and the negative effect that this could have on the situation of refugees who were under the oversight of those offices.

10. The view was expressed that the new arrangements for the grant contribution from the regular budget seemed appropriate and sensible. However, it was also noted that the increase of US$ 2 million in the regular budget contribution seemed unjustified given the overall budget cuts of the programme. Emphasis was placed on maintaining the real resource value of the grant over time and on preserving the ability of the High Commissioner to implement the programme.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 23, Protection of and assistance to refugees, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, subject to the following modifications:

Paragraph 23.2

After the first sentence, insert the following sentence, based on the last sentence of paragraph 21.1 of the medium-term plan for 2002-2005: "The pursuit of permanent solutions to the problems of refugees is the heart of protection and the principal purpose of this section."

Paragraph 23.3

Under item (e), replace the phrase "in these activities, due consideration will be given to the interests both of Member States and of the United Nations" with the following text from the end of paragraph 21.5 (f) of the medium-term plan for 2002-2005: "in this regard, due consideration should be given to the

obligation of United Nations officials, in the conduct of their duties, to observe fully both the laws and regulations of Member States and their duties and responsibilities to the Organization."

Table 23.4

At the end of indicator of achievement (e), add the following phrase, based on paragraph 21.17 (d) of the medium-term plan: "; the number of refugees repatriated and resettled."

Paragraph 23.11

Delete the words "(a) UNHCR staff are trained as to the need for, and most effective design of, programme initiatives;" and re-letter the remaining sub-items accordingly.

Paragraph 23.14

Sub-item (c) should read: "(c) a sufficient level of extrabudgetary funding is raised to allow for funding of planned capacity-building projects."

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 24, Palestine refugees

1. At its 28th meeting, on 28 June 2001, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 24, Palestine refugees, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Strong support for UNRWA was expressed. The substantive progress in the management of the Programme was applauded.

4. Appreciation and praise were expressed for the laudable courage demonstrated by the staff of UNRWA in carrying out its humanitarian mandates often under very difficult conditions.

5. Views were expressed that section 24 contained one of the best formulations of expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement. It was felt that the formulation could be used as a model for other budget sections.

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6. It was noted that 96.8 per cent of UNRWA resources were from extrabudgetary sources. A view was expressed that the ratio between regular budget and extrabudgetary resources was a gauge of the success of the programme. In view of increasing financial requirements and difficulties in raising voluntary contributions, a view was expressed that the donor base should be expanded to include the private sector. Appreciation was expressed for the donors and they were encouraged to continue contributing to the Agency. The success of UNRWA in the recent appeal for funds was noted with appreciation.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 24, Palestine refugees, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, subject to the following modifications:

Paragraph 24.14 (b)

Insert the word "some" between "by" and "host" in the first line.

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 25, Humanitarian assistance

1. At its 28th meeting, on 28 June 2001, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 25, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 25 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. The importance of the programme and the high priority given to the programme in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 was stressed. Support was expressed for the activities of the section, particularly on activities related to natural disasters and complex emergencies. The critical coordination role played by the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the activities of the United Nations system was emphasized. In addition, support was expressed for the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

4. It was underlined that White Helmets worked in an efficient manner with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to give relief in a specific

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situation. It was stated that initiatives such as White Helmets should be encouraged and developed worldwide.

5. The view was expressed that the objectives of the section were clear in their delivery of humanitarian assistance and that they were well elaborated and coordinated with the medium-term plan. It was noted that the programme narratives had improved in comparison with the narratives of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. While it was observed that, in general, the expected accomplishments had linkages to the medium-term plan, some expected accomplishments and indicators of achievements could be further harmonized with the text of the medium-term plan.

6. It was pointed out that, while the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievements in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005, emphasized the more timely delivery of humanitarian assistance, the more timely response to countries in or emerging from civil crisis, the more timely delivery of assistance to victims of natural disasters and provision of relief, logistics, funding and contingency planning, no reference to the phrase "more timely" was made in the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievements proposed by the Office. The view was expressed that further refinements to the indicators of achievement could be made in order to ensure they could be effectively measurable. It was pointed out that the expected accomplishments should have included adequate coordination among the United Nations agencies and programmes for the safety and security of humanitarian personnel.

7. Concern was expressed about the absence of references to internally displaced persons in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. It was pointed out that internally displaced persons were not only the product of humanitarian crises, but also natural disasters and various economic situations. In implementing its programme of work on internally displaced persons, therefore, the Office should be guided by those distinctions.

8. It was emphasized that the roles of New York, Geneva and the field should be complementary. The implementation of emergency rules and procedures was welcomed. The view was expressed that it was important to enhance the capacity of the Office to respond to natural disasters. The view was also expressed that, while there was a need for surge capacities, there was no need to reclassify posts at higher levels. It was pointed out that the professionalism of the staff of the Office increased each year.

9. Reference was made to General Assembly resolution 46/182 and to the linkage of the legislative mandate contained in that resolution to the role of the Secretary-General in responding to natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies. It was pointed out that a clear distinction should be made between the legislative mandate in respect of humanitarian assistance and the role of the Secretary-General as executive officer of the United Nations.

10. Concern was expressed regarding the percentage of extrabudgetary resources in the overall level of resources of the section, since shortfalls in voluntary contributions would have a negative effect in the implementation of the Office's programme of work. The view was expressed, however, that in some other sections, the percentage of extrabudgetary resources in the overall level of resources was higher than that of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

11. The view was expressed that donors, in making voluntary contributions, should pre-allocate those resources as little as possible and allow the Office to utilize those resources in the areas where it needed them most.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 25, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, subject to the following modifications:

Table 25.6

Delete (b) under expected accomplishments.

Delete (b) under indicators of achievements.

[Delete (c) under expected accomplishments.]

[Delete (c) under indicators of achievements.]

Delete "Increased attention to and respect for an active and visible policy of" in (d) under expected accomplishments.

Paragraph 25.18

Paragraph (b) (iii) replace the words "human rights and international humanitarian law" with "international humanitarian law and human rights instruments".

Paragraph (b) (vi) should read "Paper requested by the Security Council on protection for humanitarian assistance to refugees and others in conflict situations (1)".

At the end of paragraph (b) (viii), add the words "in strict conformity with the principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality and to ensure that they are not working at cross-purposes".

Paragraph (c) (iv) should read "Production of inter-agency training package on enhancing the provision of humanitarian assistance to all populations in need".

Add a new paragraph after (c) (iv), "(v) Collaboration with other agencies to support and to promote the efforts of Governments of affected countries upon their request to assist and to protect internally displaced persons".

Delete paragraph (c) (vi) and renumber the subsequent paragraphs accordingly.

Paragraph 25.27

In the second sentence, add the words "where appropriate" after the word "Framework".

Table 25.10

Expected accomplishment (a) should read "increased capacity of developing countries for preparedness in disaster prevention and mitigation".

Indicator of achievement (a) should read "increase in the number of developing countries having the technical capacity to deal with disaster prevention and mitigation".

Add a new expected accomplishment (b), which should read "increased participation by developing countries in disaster reduction-related training and seminars".

Add a new indicator of achievement (b), which should read "the number of experts from developing countries participating in training seminars on disaster prevention".

Renumber the existing expected accomplishment and indicators of achievements from (b) to (c).

Delete expected accomplishment (d), and renumber the existing indicators of achievements from (d) to (e).

Renumber the existing expected accomplishment and indicators of achievements from (c) to (d).

Add a new expected accomplishment:

> **"(e) Better and more effective coordination in the mobilization of international support to contribute in the preventive management and rehabilitation related to natural disasters".**

Paragraph 25.30 (c) (i)

Add a new item "n. Update inventory of the resources available to help deal with natural disasters".

Table 25.12

Delete (a) under expected accomplishments.

Delete (a) under indicators of achievements.

Renumber expected accomplishment and indicators of achievements from (b) to (a) and from (c) to (b).

Add new (c) expected accomplishment as follows:

> **"Increased capacity of developing countries to deal with disaster relief."**

Add new (c) indicator of achievement as follows:

> **"Increased participation in training seminars on disaster management, improved field and regional cooperation in**

disaster management and increased donor response to inter-agency appeals".

Under expected accomplishments (b) and (d), after the words "environmental disasters", add the words, "as well as technological accidents".

Table 25.14

Under expected accomplishment (b), after the words "United Nations", delete the remainder of the paragraph.

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 26. Public Information

1. At its 28th and 29th meetings, on 28 and 29 June 2001, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 26, Public information, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 26 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the activities carried out by Department of Public Information. The role of the Department in increasing the awareness and understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations among peoples of the world remains important for successful implementation of the themes and issues of the United Nations.

4. Satisfaction was expressed with the utilization by the Department of Public Information of digital technology, computerization and the Internet. It was further expressed that while the use of electronic media was increasing, the more traditional means for the dissemination of information should continue to be used in view of the technological gap between Member States. The view was also expressed that

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radio remains one of the most cost effective and far-reaching traditional media available for the promotion of the activities of the United Nations around the world.

5. Noting that the implementation of the pilot project on the development of an international radio broadcasting capacity for the United Nations had been successfully carried out, the view was expressed that the transition to permanent implementation of the project to more radio stations around the world should be supported.

6. Concern was expressed regarding the unequal treatment of the six official languages on the United Nations web site, particularly in Chinese, Russian and Arabic. A similar view was expressed on United Nations publications, press releases and Library services. The need for equal treatment of all six official languages was emphasised, while, at the same time, it was noted that the demand for and use of the English Language site was overwhelming. It was pointed out that the use of non-official languages in the United Nations Radio must be strengthened in order to reach the largest audience worldwide. In this regard, it was pointed out that any activities dealing with non-official languages should be funded through extrabudgetary resources.

7. Views were expressed that the proposed outputs were too numerous and similar in nature, particularly those in subprogrammes 1 and 2. It was also noted that outputs tend to remain unchanged over the years. Concerns were expressed regarding the non-availability of information on the target audiences of various outputs produced by the Department, their level of satisfaction, and the usefulness and impacts of the outputs. Views were also expressed regarding the prioritization and streamlining of the Department's activities and services. In this regard, the importance of self-evaluation was also noted, especially utilization of the Integrated Monitoring and Documentation Information System to evaluate the Department's outputs and activities for relevance and effectiveness.

8. Concerns were expressed regarding the level of integration of public information services and activities among New York, Geneva and Vienna, and the level of coordination with other entities in the United Nations system, both at Headquarters and in the field, in order to avoid duplication of activities and services and increase the efficiency of public information activities.

9. Views were expressed that while the United Nations information centres provide effective and localized information services in the field, the cost for these services was high. Suggestions were made to review and rationalize the existing information centres to see if cost-saving measures could be adopted by terminating some centres located in developed countries, relocating some centres to United Nations Houses, and adopting improved coordination strategies, including with other United Nations system offices.

10. Suggestions were made that the Department of Public Information prepare a report on the cost-savings to the information centres and to the Department as a whole resulting from the on-line availability of documents and publications.

11. Views were expressed that the Secretary-General should examine alternative ways for the Department of Public Information to carry out its mandates and responsibilities more efficiently and effectively, in particular in the light of available technology and changing needs, and report thereon at the first part of the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

Conclusions and recommendations

12. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 26, Public information, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

13. The Committee also recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report on the impact of the "United Nations Houses" initiative on the operations, budget and staff of the information centres, taking into account the views of hosting countries.

14. The Committee further recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to report on the impact of the depository libraries as well as the upgrading of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library's integrated management system on programme delivery.

15. The Committee further recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the simultaneous availability of parliamentary documentation in electronic form in the six official languages on the United Nations web site.

16. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly, during its consideration of section 26 of the proposed programme budget, to pay special attention to the programme aspects of developing and enhancing the United Nations web site in all official languages of the Organization, due to the goal of achieving full parity among the United Nations official languages on the United Nations web site.

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Addendum

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(Item 4 (a))

Section 27, Management and central support services

1. At its 21st meeting, on 25 June 2001, the Committee considered section 27, Management and central support services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/6 (sect. 27 A-G)).

2. The representatives of the General Assembly introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. General support was expressed for the proposed programme of work of the Department of Management for the biennium 2002-2003. Views were expressed that the Department had made a substantial contribution towards the implementation of General Assembly resolutions 52/12 A and B of 12 November and 19 December 1997 respectively, both entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform", by introducing new approaches to the management of the Secretariat in the area of common support services.

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4. Views were expressed that the presentation of the budget fascicles in the results-based budgeting format was uneven in some parts of the section and required further improvement. Concern was expressed that some expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement included in the medium-term plan were not fully reflected in the programme narrative. Views were also expressed that some expected accomplishments were too broad and general and that the contents of some indicators of achievement required further refinement. A need was expressed for the development of common benchmarks and standards for comparable services to ensure a consistent approach across the section to the use of indicators. A view was also expressed that a zero-growth budgeting approach had imposed some limitations in the allocation of sufficient resources to the priority areas within common support services, and that other alternatives, such as the concept of zero-based budgeting, could be explored.

5. Measures proposed to address the priority issues within the Department of Management, such as in the area of administration of justice, were noted. At the same time, it was indicated that retaining the administration of justice activity in the Department might compromise the independence of the judicial process as it is described in General Assembly resolution 55/258 of 14 June 2001 on human resources management. Views were also expressed that the division of the administration of justice between different organizational units of the Department might slow down the process and weaken the implementation of judicial decisions.

6. With regard to section 27A, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, a view was expressed that the absence of workload indicators under that section would make it difficult to monitor the programme delivery, evaluate the results achieved and establish the mechanism of accountability of the sectoral and line managers.

7. With regard to section 27B, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, views were expressed that the financial and budgetary planning, execution and reporting of the peacekeeping operations was a core function of the Secretariat which should be financed from the regular budget rather than from the peacekeeping support account.

8. With regard to section 27C, Office of Human Resources Management, views were expressed that the programme narrative of the section should be revised to reflect fully the provisions of General Assembly resolution 55/258 on human resources management. Emphasis was placed upon the priority implementation by the Office of Human Resources Management of the measures for strengthening the specific areas of human resources management set out in the resolution. Concern was expressed that the programme narrative did not sufficiently indicate the measures by the Office of Human Resources Management for establishing a clear linkage between increased responsibilities delegated to the programme managers and their accountability for decisions taken. A view was expressed that the monitoring of programme implementation would require the introduction of explicit and effective measurement tools, including feedback from staff, into the construction of indicators of achievement. A view was also expressed that the presentation of the programme tended to lean towards elaboration on the conceptual formulation of the reform rather than identification of a specific strategy. The importance of staff training for improved functioning of the Organization was emphasized. A view was expressed that management of the central training

programme should rely more on coordination and cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system with a view to employing the best practices and experience of the system.

9. With regard to section 27D, Office of Central Support Services, emphasis was placed upon the need for short-term and medium-term strategies for information technology, including plans on video-conferencing and other services, in addition to the long-term strategy proposed by the Secretary-General. Measures by the Office of Central Support Services for the introduction of common services arrangements on a reimbursable basis were noted. Views were expressed that the Office of Central Support Services should take specific steps for expanding such arrangements to other common support services currently in operation. Completion of the development of the Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) was noted. Views were expressed that the time had come to capitalize on technological advantages offered by the system with a view to streamlining administrative organizational structures.

Conclusions and recommendations

10. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly review the question of the ombudsman in section 27A, Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Management, of the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003 regarding the location and the level of the post.

11. The Committee also recommended to the General Assembly that it request the Secretary-General to reformulate the programme narrative of section 27C, Office of Human Resources Management, of the proposed programme budget for 2002-2003 in accordance with Assembly resolution 55/258 of 14 June 2001 and submit it for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session.

12. The Committee further recommended that the activities related to section 27, Management and central support services, should be presented in terms of objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, where possible.

13. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly to approve the programme narrative of sections 27, 27A, 27B, 27D, 27E, 27F and 27G, Management and central support services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

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Rapporteur: Mr. Ayman M. **Elgammal** (Egypt)

Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(item 4 (a))

Section 28. Internal oversight

1. At its 29th meeting, on 29 June 2001, the Committee considered section 28, Internal oversight, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 28 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the activities undertaken by the Office of Internal Oversight Services. Satisfaction was also expressed that a strategic review had been undertaken.

4. It was pointed out that the proposed programme budget fully covered the mandate of the Office and reflected the provisions of the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. The indicators of achievements under subprogramme 3, Monitoring and inspection, were in particular commended.

5. It was recalled that the evaluation function was intended to assist programme managers in conducting self-evaluations. It was asked when the revised evaluation

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manual would be issued. A question was also raised on how to improve the timing of consideration of evaluation reports by the intergovernmental bodies in order to eliminate the current lack of efficiency resulting from the delays between the issuance of evaluation reports and their reviews by intergovernmental bodies.

6. Concern was expressed at the steady increase in resources for the Office of Internal Oversight since its inception. It was also pointed out that the level of extrabudgetary resources had significantly increased since the biennium 1998-1999, and questions were raised concerning the sources of these resources. Concern was expressed at the increasing recourse to extrabudgetary funds. The establishment of a cost reimbursement mechanism with the funds and programmes was welcomed and it was expected that there would be reporting on its functioning in the future.

7. The Committee welcomed the coordination with external oversight bodies as a very positive element. However, it was pointed out that improvements to further harmonize the work of the different oversight bodies were still required in order to avoid duplication in their work.

8. Questions were raised concerning the role and involvement of the Office in information technology matters at the United Nations Secretariat.

9. It was pointed out that, in subprogramme 1 (Central evaluation), the indicator of achievement (b) in table 28.6 relative to better coordination with external oversight bodies should be modified. It was observed that the number of meetings does not necessarily reflect better coordination and that a more adequate indicator of achievement would be the number of joint projects and/or the number of agreements to undertake joint and/or complementary audits.

10. Regarding subprogrammes 1, 2 (Management consulting) and 3, questions were raised concerning the apportionment of resources among the three functions in the newly created Monitoring, Evaluation and Consulting Division.

11. In subprogramme 4 (Investigations), it was observed that new posts were requested to cope with the increased workload in investigation cases. It was, however, pointed out that an increase in posts does not necessarily lead to enhanced effectiveness. Additional questions were raised as to whether the benchmark of 30 new cases by investigators was a realistic one and whether the new posts would provide for enough resources to cope with the increasing workload. The view was also expressed that other means to improve work efficiency should be explored.

12. Finally, questions were raised concerning the removal of the Executive Office from the executive direction and management component into a separate programme support component.

Conclusions and recommendations

13. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 28, Internal oversight, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, subject to the following modifications:

Table 28.6

Under objective 1, replace indicator of achievement (b) with "The number of joint meetings, agreements and assignments with external oversight bodies".

Table 28.8

Merge the indicators of achievement (b) (i) and (b) (ii) to read "(b) Clear delegation of authority and the existence and effective use of mechanisms to ensure accountability at all levels of the Organization".

Replace the indicator of achievement (d) with "The number of joint meetings, agreements and assignments with external oversight bodies".

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(Item 4 (a))

Section 29, Jointly financed administrative activities

1. At its 21st meeting, on 25 June 2001, the Committee considered section 29, Jointly financed administrative activities, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 (A/56/6 (Sect. 29)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. It was noted that the activities proposed under that budget section was not programmed in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005. It was further noted that the results-based budgeting approach had therefore not been used in developing that section, particularly with respect to the programme narratives for the International Civil Service Commission and the Joint Inspection Unit. A view was expressed that, although the jointly financed administrative activities were not programmed in the medium-term plan, efforts should have been made to develop the expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement that would be suitable for monitoring and evaluation of the activities of the International Civil Service

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Commission and the Joint Inspection Unit. Other views were expressed that, in the absence of the conceptual classification of the activities of ICSC and JIU, a mechanical identification of the indicators could be of limited utility.

4. A view was expressed that, in accordance with its Statute, the Joint Inspection Unit should continue to make efforts to utilize other operational approaches and tools that would enable it to provide a faster response to the issues and problems that fell within the Unit's competence.

5. The efforts to streamline the subsidiary machinery of the Administrative Committee on Coordination were noted. It was pointed out, in that context, that the narrative did not provide sufficient information to allow the Committee to identify clearly the differences and potential complementarities between the two newly established high-level committees, namely the High-level Committee on Management and the High-level Committee on Programmes, nor did it allow an assessment of the advantages of the restructuring of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee took note of the narrative of section 29, Jointly financed administrative activities, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

7. The Committee recommended that the activities related to section 29, Jointly financed administrative activities, be presented in terms of objectives, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement, where possible.

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Addendum

Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003

(item 4 (a))

Section 33. Development Account

1. At its 23rd meeting, on 26 June 2001, the Committee considered section 33, Development Account, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the budget section and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

Discussion

3. The view was expressed that the administrative arrangements and modalities of operation of the Development Account were too vague.

4. The basis for the provision of funds under this budget section at the same level as in the past two biennia was questioned. It was recalled that the resources to be proposed in this section were to be generated from efficiency savings and productivity gains. It was noted, however, that no mention of such savings was made in the narrative of the fascicle.

5. It was explained that the basis for the initial 1998-1999 appropriation of $13,065,000 under the Development Account was the efficiency savings realized in

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the biennium 1996-1997 and that these had been reflected in the second performance report for the biennium 1996-1997. In establishing the Development Account, the General Assembly had decided that the amount approved for one biennium would constitute the base for the following biennium, and that this base would be increased by the amounts of savings generated by efficiency measures and productivity gains achieved during the previous biennium. These savings would be reported biennially by the Secretariat in the context of the second budget performance report, and the General Assembly would decide on the amounts of savings which would be provided for the Development Account. It was indicated that no new additional savings were identified in the context of the second performance report for the biennium 1998-1999 and that it was not possible, at this stage, to project for the biennium 2000-2001. This was the reason why the same amount as in the past two biennia was proposed under the section.

Conclusions and recommendations

6. The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 33, Development Account, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

7. The Committee recommended that, when considering section 33, the General Assembly also take into account the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of projects financed from the Development Account (A/55/913).